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and  
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# COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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HIGH SCHOOL

## Boyle county student wins essay contest, photo shoot

A Boyle County High School junior is the winner of a \$500 scholarship essay contest, earning her school a photo shoot for pictures to be used in statewide college planning publications.

Laura Burns' essay sparked interest from our judges to visit this Kentucky school "that teaches not only academics, but how to be better people."



The judges' selection was based on Burns' well-written testimonial to her school that went beyond test scores, clubs and athletics. "This essay has inspirational qualities that drew me to it," one judge said.

Boyle County High "prepares students for college and careers with outstanding teachers, supportive staff and endless opportunities for students to discover what they want out of life," Burns wrote. Despite the Rebels' extensive list of athletic and academic achievements, Burns wrote the Boyle High School community "also believes in creating better people, in creating confident citizens for the country and the world. The curriculum in my high school creates mature, responsible citizens ready for whatever life may bring."

The contest, sponsored by KHEAA and The Student Loan People, gathered over a hundred entries statewide.

Burns and other Boyle County High School students will participate in a photo shoot at the school in January. The pictures will be used in publications from KHEAA and The Student Loan People.



## Report details Outreach activities for FY2007

Included with this issue of the *Counselor Connection* is the *Outreach Annual Report FY2007*. This report includes information about our nine regional outreach counselors, provides a breakdown of contacts made and materials distributed and highlights selected partnerships and activities.



Information about the College Info Road Show, which visits schools and other sites, and GoHigherKY.org is also featured.

If you would like to schedule a visit from the outreach staff, please contact Outreach Services Assistant Summer Gortney by calling 502.696.7377 or by e-mailing [sgortney@kheaa.com](mailto:sgortney@kheaa.com).



Reminder...Early graduates need KEES information reported by January 15.

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## First live high school transcript sent through GoHigherKY.org

After much anticipation, KHEAA and The Student Loan People implemented the Transcript Exchange System through the GoHigherKY.org website on November 8 when Simon Kenton High School transmitted the first live transcript to Northern Kentucky University.

“Northern Kentucky University is pleased to partner with Go Higher Kentucky to bring this efficient service to our applicants,” said Melissa Gorbandt, NKU’s Director of Admissions. “The ability to receive high school transcripts electronically will allow our Admissions Office to complete student files quickly so an admission decision can be made. This is an exciting partnership between colleges, high schools and Go Higher Kentucky, and we look forward to the participation of additional Kentucky high schools.”

Debbie Sweeney, Student Records Supervisor for the Kenton County School District, also likes the system. “The personnel from the Kenton County School District feel the live transcript transmittal will be very beneficial to both students and staff,” she said. “It will benefit students as their information will be available to Northern Kentucky University immediately. The program will save both time and money for the district as well as for Northern Kentucky University. We are very proud to have Simon Kenton High School as a pilot for this program.”

The Transcript Exchange System is a free and convenient solution. Transcripts are sent electronically on an encrypted, secure connection between participating Kentucky high schools and colleges. Counselors and college administrators can send and receive transcripts for one or many students at a time, and students can pick which Kentucky colleges receive their high school transcript.

Other benefits of the system include:

- No expensive translation software required.
- No extensive technical expertise required.
- No additional equipment to buy.
- No costly printing and mailing of transcripts.
- No wait time because transcripts are available upon receipt.
- No cost to participants.

At this time, five colleges are participating: Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Kentucky State University, Northern Kentucky University, the University of Louisville and the University of the Cumberlands.

The eight high schools currently participating are Allen Central, Betsy Layne, Prestonsburg, South Floyd, Shelby County, Simon Kenton, Pikeville and Rowan County.

For more information or to join the Transcript Exchange System, please contact Dave Wellman at 502.696.7493, [dwellman@kheaa.com](mailto:dwellman@kheaa.com), or Pennie Little at 502.696.7495, [plittle@kheaa.com](mailto:plittle@kheaa.com).

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## It's nearly FAFSA time

Encourage your students to complete the FAFSA as soon after the first of the year as possible. Students seeking college aid for the 2008–2009 school year should file the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) as soon as possible.

As mentioned in the last edition of the *Counselor Connection*, 2008–2009 paper FAFSAs will not be available for schools to order via FSAPubs. Students will be able to obtain a paper FAFSA by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center toll free at 800.433.3243. Students may request up to three copies of the paper application and should receive their FAFSAs in three to seven days.

The FAFSA is used to apply for most need-based state, federal and institutional aid programs, including those administered by KHEAA. Some student aid funds are limited, and those who apply early have the best chance to receive all of the aid for which they may qualify.

Students who file the FAFSA online will get their results 7 to 14 days faster than those who file by mail.

Included in this edition of the *Counselor Connection* is a copy of the FAFSA insert that provides updated information for KHEAA-administered state aid programs and a listing of eligible Kentucky colleges. KHEAA would appreciate it if you would make copies and distribute them to all your college-bound students.

## College Goal Sunday . . . Coming in January

The Kentucky Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, in cooperation with the Lumina Foundation, KHEAA and The Student Loan People, sponsors College Goal Sunday to help students and parents fill out the FAFSA. This event will be held **January 27**.

Financial aid professionals will be available at 20 sites in 19 Kentucky communities to assist students and their parents in completing the 2008–2009 FAFSA. Families attending College Goal Sunday should bring all the information needed for filling out their tax forms. Financial aid professionals will help them use that information to complete the FAFSA.

**A scholarship drawing will be held.** The winners will be drawn from the students who turn in evaluation sheets at the end of the session. The scholarships can be used at most Kentucky colleges. Following are the sites for College Goal Sunday. Students and parents who plan to attend should arrive by 2 p.m. For more information, call toll free 888.452.7322.



City	Site	City	Site
Ashland	<b>Ashland Community and Technical College</b> J.B. Sowards Auditorium 1400 College Drive	Lexington	<b>Bluegrass Community and Technical College</b> Oswald Building, Room 230 470 Cooper Drive
Barbourville	<b>Union College</b> Sharp Academic Center, Room 3125 310 College Street	Louisville	<b>Jefferson Community and Technical College</b> VTI Building, Room 301 110 West Chestnut Street
Bowling Green	<b>Western Kentucky University</b> Downing University Center, Theater 1906 College Heights Boulevard		<b>Male High School Cafeteria</b> 4409 Preston Highway
Campbellsville	<b>Campbellsville University</b> Hawkins Athletic Complex Multi-Purpose Room 1 University Drive	Madisonville	<b>Madisonville Community College</b> Health Campus, Byrnes Auditorium 750 North Laffoon Street
Crestview Hills	<b>Thomas More College</b> Administration Building The Commons 333 Thomas More Parkway	Morehead	<b>Morehead State University</b> Adron Doran University Center 3rd Floor, Crager Room 150 University Boulevard
Crestwood	<b>South Oldham High School</b> 5901 Veterans Memorial Parkway	Owensboro	<b>Advanced Technology Center</b> Conference Room A 4800 New Hartford Road
Elizabethtown	<b>Elizabethtown Community and Technical College</b> Regional Postsecondary Education Center, Rooms 505-516 600 College Street Road	Paducah	<b>West Kentucky Community and Technical College</b> Crounse Hall 4810 Alben Barkley Drive
Frankfort	<b>Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority</b> Paul P. Borden Conference Room 100 Airport Road	Prestonsburg	<b>Big Sandy Community and Technical College</b> Student Services Building, Room 203A 1 Bert T. Combs Drive
Hazard	<b>Hazard Community and Technical College</b> J. Marvin Jolly Classroom Building, Room 152-JCC 1 Community College Drive	Richmond	<b>Eastern Kentucky University</b> Student Services Building 521 Lancaster Avenue
Hopkinsville	<b>Hopkinsville Community College</b> Auditorium, Main Campus 720 North Drive	Somerset	<b>Somerset Community College</b> Student Commons Grill 808 Monticello Street



## Geri Johnson works in 11 central counties

As a way to get to know your outreach counselor, we are featuring Geri Johnson in this edition of the *Counselor Connection*. Different counselors will be featured in future editions.



Geri works with students, parents and counselors in 11 central Kentucky counties as an outreach counselor for KHEAA and The Student Loan People. The outreach program seeks to increase the state's college-going rate, tell Kentuckians about the advantages of continuing their education after high school and provide information about the agencies' services and financial aid programs.

**Counties:** Anderson, Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Jessamine, Madison, Scott, Shelby, Woodford

**Years of Service:** 7

**Professional Goals:** To be a contributing factor in the success of students whom I have the opportunity to interact with as I promote the importance of higher education and provide information about financial aid resources.

**Educational Background:** B.S., business; M.A., education.

**Dream Vacation:** Travel to Venice, Florence and Rome, Italy. (This dream came true in September 2006.)

**Hobbies:** Gardening, oil painting, knitting.

**Personal Motto or Favorite Quote:** "Whatever it takes."

**Personal Hero:** Odie.

Contact Geri at:  
gjohnson@kheaa.com  
859.509.7715

## Applications being taken for 2008–2009 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program provides scholarships to academically talented high school seniors who have not only proven themselves in high school but possess talents and/or life experiences that will enhance their chances of success in college.

This year's application will be available through Zip Access at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com) from December 1 to February 1. To apply, students need to sign in to Zip Access with their user ID and password. Those who have not used Zip Access before may register to create a user ID and password.

After the application period ends, counselors at each participating high school must select and certify the applicants your school wishes to submit to KHEAA for final consideration. The number of applicants that can be submitted depends on your school's total enrollment.

- High schools with enrollment of 1,500 or more may nominate up to five applicants.
- High schools with enrollment of 1,000 - 1,499 may nominate up to four applicants.
- High schools with enrollment of 500 - 999 may nominate up to three applicants.
- High schools with enrollment of less than 500 may nominate up to two applicants.

**The deadline for counselor certification is February 15.** We ask that you allow yourself ample time to complete the certifications in advance of the deadline. Each year KHEAA receives requests to extend the deadline because of last-minute technical difficulties and school closings. With your cooperation, KHEAA will be able to select recipients in time for you to announce the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholars at your senior award ceremonies.

For more information, contact Beth Lane at 800.928.8926, ext. 6-7229, or [blane@kheaa.com](mailto:blane@kheaa.com).